

On 4.vi.1996 I rolled over some cut sycamore logs recently felled in Dacres Wood, a small community open space in Lewisham, south-east London (grid reference TQ 355725) and discovered several *Biphyllus* and an *Anommatus*. They were all gathered on the underside of the logs in the black sooty spores of the "sooty bark disease", a fungus *Cryptostroma corticale*, specific to sycamore and which had killed the trees. The logs were resting on and partly sunken into the earth, a habitat not altogether unlikely for *Anommatus*, and it is quite conceivable that the decaying sycamore was just as good as any other log in providing shelter or nourishment for the beetle. But the very many (at least 30) specimens of *Biphyllus* could, surely, only indicate that they were breeding there. Although completely different in form, at least *Cryptostroma* is similar to the normal *Biphyllus* food-fungus in that it is as black and apparently unappetising as *Daldinia*. Hammond & Lawrence (1989. Appendix. Mycophagy in insects: a summary. In: Wilding, N. *et al.* (eds), *Insect-fungus interactions*. London: Academic Press. pp. 275-324), list Biphyllidae (*Biphyllus* and *Diplocoelus*) as generally being associated with *Daldinia*, *Numularia* and *Cryptostroma*, but I do not recall ever seeing a specific record of *Biphyllus* associated with sooty bark disease. On the other hand *Diplocoelus fagi* Guerin-Meneville is now one of the commonest beetles under sycamore bark in the London area and finding it under beech bark, nominally its true host, is something of a novelty. The number of beetles associated with sycamore, and more specifically with the sooty bark disease continues to grow (Jones, 1993. Sycamore: an underrated pabulum for insects and some beetles associated with. *Ent. Rec.* **105**: 1-10 & 1999; *Saprosites mendax* Blackburn (Scarabaeidae) under sycamore logs in Battersea Park, London. *Coleopterist* **8**: 120). One wonders what will be found feeding there next.

– RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ. (bugmanjones@hotmail.com).

Trinodes hirtus (Fabr.) (Col.: Dermestidae) – a further Suffolk locality

Ten years ago I reported the re-discovery of this Red Data Book category 3 beetle at Shrubland Park, Coddanham (1990, *Ent. Rec.* **102**: 186), a locality in which the species continues to thrive, it last being noted there by myself and Martin Collier in June 1998. It is perhaps worth adding that, in addition to being found under Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa* bark in this locality – not Spanish Chestnut as stated in my original note – the larvae are also found under that of live Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

On 30 June 1999, I was pleasantly surprised to beat a single example from an old oak with cobwebbed cavities, growing on the edge of a grazed pasture at Freston, near Ipswich (OS grid reference TM 1639).

This is the third Suffolk locality for the beetle, Claude Morley having described how he found larvae in a huge *Polyporus sulphureus* (now *Laetiporus sulphureus*) bracket on a very old Crack Willow *Salix fragilis* (1942. *Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc.* **V** part 1: 36). Although he does not give the provenance of the fungus, some of the

larval skins are present in his collection at Ipswich Museum and show that it was collected at Brandeston (TM 26) on 2 September 1942. Morley (*loc. cit.*) states that "it is pretty surely a mere scavenger in other Beetles' burrows" which is not correct, the larvae feeding on cast spider exuviae and the desiccated remains of spiders' prey in cobwebs under bark. The beetle is normally considered to be associated with ancient broad-leaved woodland and pasture woodland; there are extensive old woodlands adjacent to the Freston locality, but this does not appear to be the case in the Brandeston area and its occurrence on an old willow likewise seems most unusual.

I thank David Lampard, Keeper (Natural History) at the Ipswich Museum for access to the Claude Morley collection.— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Branham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.

The Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* (Butler) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in Granada

During a holiday in southern Spain, my girlfriend and I went to the city of Granada, mainly to visit the magnificent Moorish palace, the Alhambra. On 9 April 2000, after spending several hours in the palace and its gardens, we walked down into the town to get some food. Though the weather was quite dull, I noticed a lycaenid butterfly flitting amongst the awnings outside a row of cafés and bars. Once it had settled, it was clearly identifiable as the Geranium Bronze. Tom Tolman, in the 1997 Collins Field Guide *Butterflies of Britain and Europe* mentions that this species was noted in Granada as long ago as 1995, so unless the butterfly is being constantly re-introduced with its foodplants, our sighting would indicate that the butterfly has maintained its presence in the city for at least five years.— MARTIN J. WHITE, 8 St. Nicholas Square, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 1UG.

Early emergence of *Anthophora plumipes* (Pallas) (Hym.: Anthophoridae)

Anthophora plumipes is a large and distinctive, sexually dimorphic solitary bee which nests in earth banks and occasionally the mortar of buildings. Males are light or tawny brown with plumose middle tarsi. Females are largely black with a distinctive fringe of orange hairs on the hind legs; both look rather like a small bumblebee, but have a less shaggy appearance. Although widespread in Surrey, it is my experience that this species is more abundant in the London suburbs than in the wider countryside, and is especially common in my garden in Mitcham where, on any suitable days, several males and females can be seen at garden flowers between March and May.

As one of the early spring species which can be readily identified, this is a bee which I regularly record and generally note the first emergence each year. My data for the London area suggest that adults usually appear around the middle of March. This year, however, my first record from my garden in Mitcham (TQ2868) was a male on 13 February 2000 and both a male and female on 20 February. Prior to this